

Uruguay

I. Progressive "Orientals" of Latin America

By L. E. Elliott

Author of "Brazil, To-day and To-morrow," etc.

LOUNGING upon the platform of the railway that runs clear across the pampas of La Republica Oriental del Uruguay, from the Brazilian border to Montevideo, is a typical Oriental gaucho. His wide hat shades a broad face that shows not only in the peculiar reddish-bronze of the skin, but in the straight, black hair and quick, beady eyes, something more than a trace of the native Charrua folk, the "Indians" found here by the Spaniards four centuries ago.

The South American equivalent of the North American cowboy, and, like the cowboy, fated to disappear in course of time, this gaucho is a strong and bulky type, with big shoulders, thick neck, muscular arms, small hips and the slightly bowed legs of the horseman. He wears the poncho and bombachos: that is to say, the upper part of his body is covered by the heavy folds of a square of thick, striped, woollen cloth, with a slit in the centre to admit the head, while his lower limbs are draped in voluminous cotton or woollen pantaloons thickly shirred at waist and ankle.

Dramatic Figure of the Gaucho

Upon a chilly day he will also wear the chiripa, a large woollen shawl folded about his waist, with a corner between the legs, and, beholding him, you will wonder how a man so much encumbered can do a day's work. But this work is performed on the back of a hardy and intelligent horse, strong enough to bear the weight of a high-peaked saddle, sometimes silver-mounted, with huge solid stirrups. This horse is trained to endure the prick of six-inch spurs, and to aid his master actively when the latter throws

the lasso or the bolas—that ancient Indian weapon of the wide grasslands. If the gaucho comes from an interior point his equipment is likely to be home-made, from poncho to stirrups.

Modernity in Montevideo

Within a few hours of meeting the gaucho you may dine at a beautifully appointed house in Montevideo, and your hostess is exquisitely dressed in clothes straight from Paris; her jewels are beyond criticism, her hair dressed in the style dictated by the French capital, and she prefers to speak the tongue of France rather than that of Spain when she discusses world affairs. She has, in fact, assimilated with grace and completeness the lesson of Paris, to which very many Latin Americans look as their intellectual foster-mother as well as the arbiter of fashion. The adaptability of the Latin American woman is one of her crowning gifts.

Take, for instance, the case of Madame Blank; she is to-day the gracious châtelaine of a European diplomat, but was born the Señorita Candelaria Gonzales upon a sleepy ranch in Paysandú. Papa Gonzales and his father before him lived through troublous times in Uruguay, and round the fire at night you may hear old tales of the prolonged struggle between the Blancos and the Colorados, the two great political divisions of Uruguay until within recent times, a struggle that became a species of internecine feud, in which the women took an active and ingenious part. The death-blow to the Blanco-Colorado warfare was dealt when the coming of the Uruguayan network of railways, the newspaper, the cinema, and obvious and rapid rewards of



HEALTHY GIRLHOOD OF MONTEVIDEO'S FASHIONABLE COMMUNITY

There are many pleasant streets of Montevideo peopled by prosperous families who, in the healthy and congenial climate, enjoy to the full the amenities of social life. El Prado, a beautiful park lying some three miles from the city, is a favourite rendezvous and frequented by many of the élite from Paso de Molino, a fashionable suburb containing some remarkable varieties of architectural styles

Photo, Publishers' Photo Service

business gave a wider outlet to imagination and energy.

Candelaria ran barefoot as a child, and could ride a horse as soon as she could walk. There was no available school, and at ten she could neither read nor write. Life upon the ranch was simple, for, with cattle worth little more than their hides, there was very slight revenue in cash, and money played a small part in the year's balance-sheet. The house was built of stone, with a wide veranda; peach trees grew in the orchard, and before the door were great willows and acacias, planted for shade near the bright stream

that supplied the farm with water. Upon broad, flat stones at the edge all the family clothes were beaten when washing-day came round.

With all the attention of the menfolk of the estancia devoted to stock-raising, the kitchen garden was almost non-existent (Uruguay still imports potatoes from England, although the potato is a South American plant, native of Chile), and although chickens, ducks, and turkeys ran wild, with the prairie for a barnyard, and formed upon occasions of fiesta the basis of succulent, generous dishes well flavoured with pimienta, the mild, red peppers beloved

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of all Latin America, yet there were only two chief items of the ordinary workaday meal of the estancia—meat and maté.

The gaucho cares nothing whether he has bread and fruit and sweets or not, so long as he has plenty of beef, still frequently cooked in the open in the primitive fashion, "carne con cuero" (with the skin on), and above all if he has his maté cup and bombilla, and hot water for the infusion of the indispensable yerba.

This "herb" is the dried and broken-up leaf of *ilex paraguayensis*, growing wild in South Brazil and Paraguay, and infused to make a hot drink; it was the only hot drink that the European conquerors of South

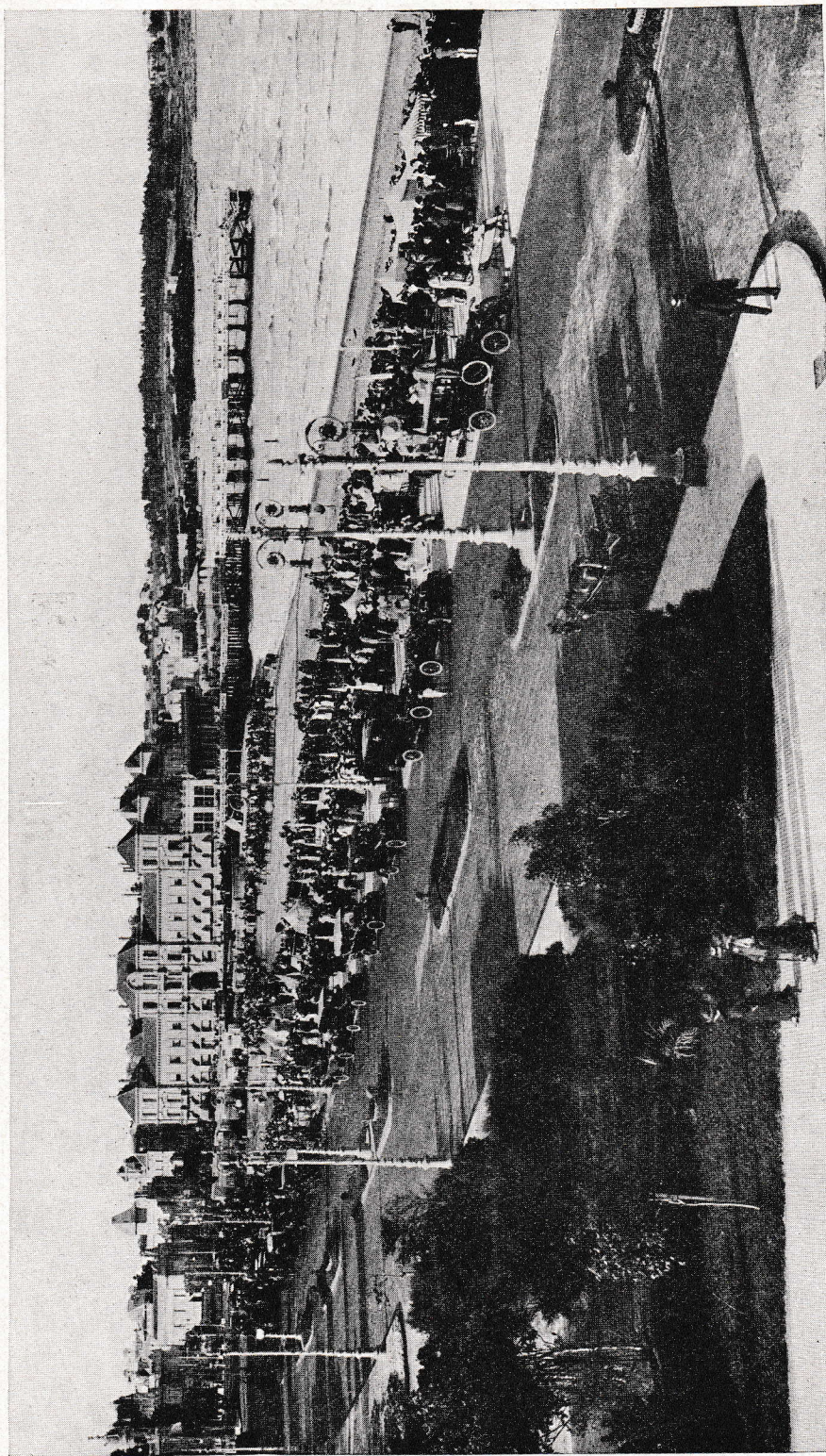
America could get in a strange land. Having a somewhat bitter taste it is disagreeable to palates unaccustomed to it, but for the last four hundred years it has retained its popularity with the natives, is still credited with almost miraculous recuperating powers, and is sold in thousands of tons in Rio Grande do Sul (South Brazil), Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay, and, less freely to-day, in the country districts of South Chile. All the cities of the maté-drinking countries have yielded to the stronger and more aromatic tea and coffee; but in more remote regions where trade penetrates slowly yerba maté still retains its place as prime favourite.



SOME MEMBERS OF MONTEVIDEO'S SHOE-SHINE SOCIETY

Street types in Montevideo are very much the same as in other large cosmopolitan cities. Flowers, fruits, and fancy goods may be bought from itinerant pedlars, vociferous newspaper boys elbow their way through the crowds, and the boot-black is on the look-out at the street corner, and for a bronze coin or two will impart a "shine" guaranteed to make well-worn footwear "as good as new"

Photo, Publishers' Photo Service



FASHIONABLE LIFE AT POCITOS BEACH, A SEASIDE PLEASURE RESORT ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF MONTEVIDEO

Montevideo is the capital, emporium, and chief port of the Republic of Uruguay and has nearly one-third of the population. It claims to be one of the most cosmopolitan of South American towns, and almost every language of the civilized world may be heard in its streets. The attractive environs contain many handsome residences, prettily situated in well-kept gardens, while Pocitos and Ramirez on the seashore, connected by trams with the city, are two well-known bathing resorts which yearly attract numerous wealthy and fashionable visitors from Buenos Aires as well as from the Uruguayan towns

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When Candelaria was about sixteen Papa Gonzales suddenly found himself beginning to make money. The establishment of great meat canning and freezing plants by strongly-financed foreign firms had the effect of rapidly "valorising" or arbitrarily increasing the market price of Uruguayan cattle. Candelaria and her brother were sent to expensive Catholic schools in France, and it took less than three years to make a flower-like demoiselle of the girl and a trifling young dandy of her brother Ildefonso.

Then came the outbreak of the Great War. Far away in Paysandú, when the Allied armies began calling for huge supplies of food, the meat-product factories were deluged with stupendous orders, and they in turn called upon the stock-raisers. Hides and wool as well as the meat of South America brought prices of a never-expected height, and there rose up a crop of millionaires.

War-time Flood of Prosperity

Papa Gonzales was among them. He bought more land and more livestock, and diamonds for his señora, but he did not change his mode of life; dawn saw him in the saddle, noon in his hammock for the siesta, sundown at the raised hearth in the big room of the estancia which is kitchen and dining and sitting room all in one, while at ten o'clock he was fast asleep.

Candelaria, before 1914 was out, married in Paris the officer brother of a school friend, while Ildefonso exchanged his loitering in studios for life in the French Army. They exemplified in Paris the type to which Paris is accustomed—the fabulously rich South American whose money comes in car-loads. Uruguay, strongly upon the side of the Allies, and saying so candidly, was well able to afford the credits that she gave, later on, both to France and to Britain for purchases of foodstuffs.

The pinnacle of Uruguayan golden days came in 1919, when the national peso soared to dizzy heights in

international exchange. Uruguay has always been proud of the fact that her gold dollar is worth just a little more than the gold dollar of the United States; but she did not expect to see her paper peso, fixed in pre-war years by the gold backing at 51½ pence, rise to 60, then 70, and at last, in early 1920, to 73 pence.

Patriarchal Life on the Estancias

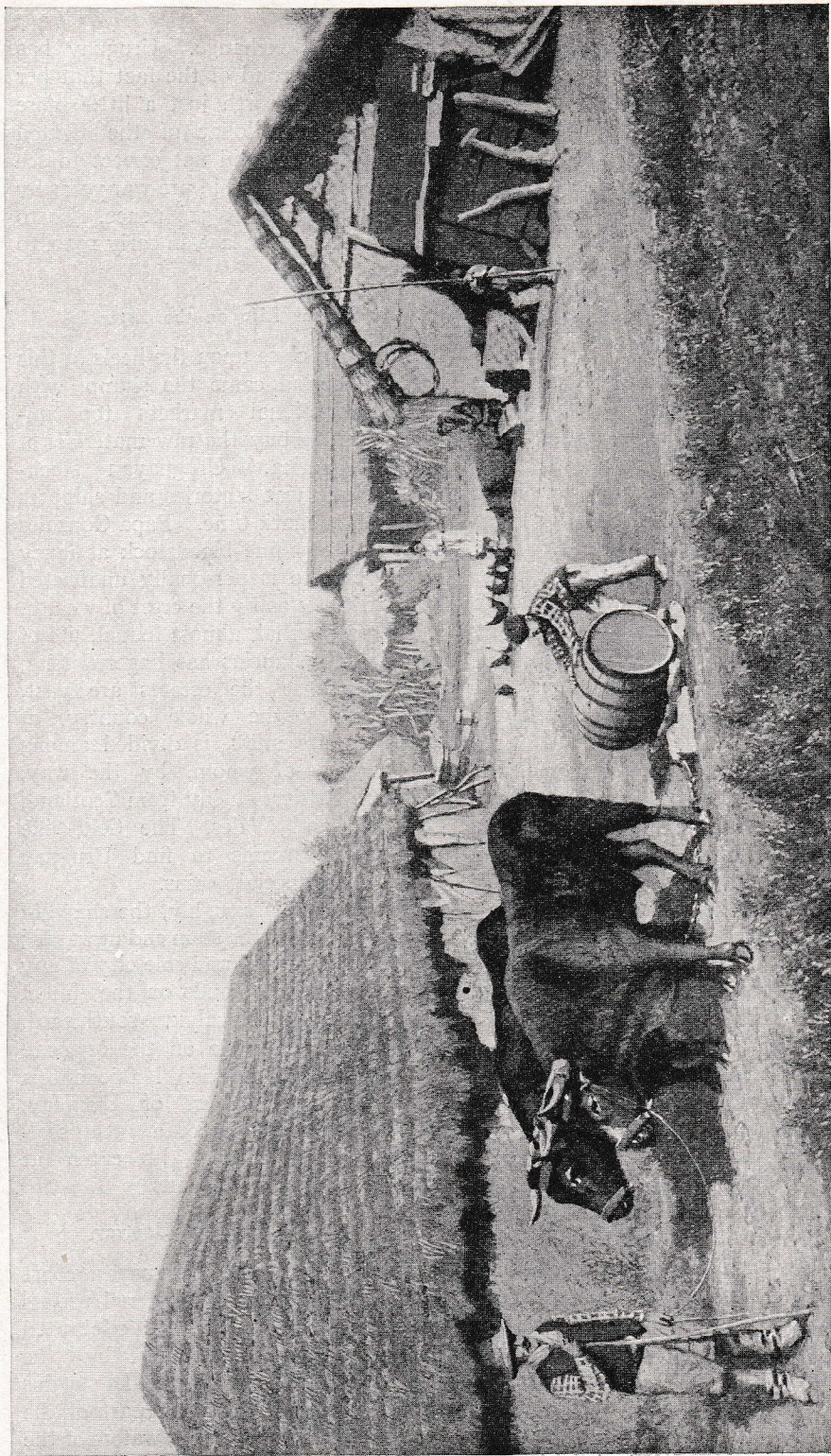
Following close upon the heels of this dazzling period came the slump, with the international markets too impoverished to buy the raw materials of South America. Uruguayan stock-raisers and meat factories and shippers then had to mark time. Papa Gonzales ceased to buy fine bloodstock at fancy prices, but he is personally unaffected by hard times as by the crest of wealth.

The patriarchal, almost feudal, life of Uruguayan estancias has lingered long, partly because the estates are vast. Even to-day the whole country, of 72,000 square miles, is divided among 600 owners—of whom, by the way, forty are British, chiefly from Scotland, Cornwall, and Wales. The Celt, like the Basque, seems to find Uruguay suited to his special genius.

The country is, roughly, the shape of a squat pear with the stem end upwards; Montevideo, capital and sole city of any considerable size, stands on the rim of the pear's flower-calyx, southward, with little Maldonado on the opposite rim, nearer the Atlantic. Maldonado is the only true seaport of Uruguay, and here is the base of a little seal-hunting fleet, making its catch at Castillos and Lobos Islands.

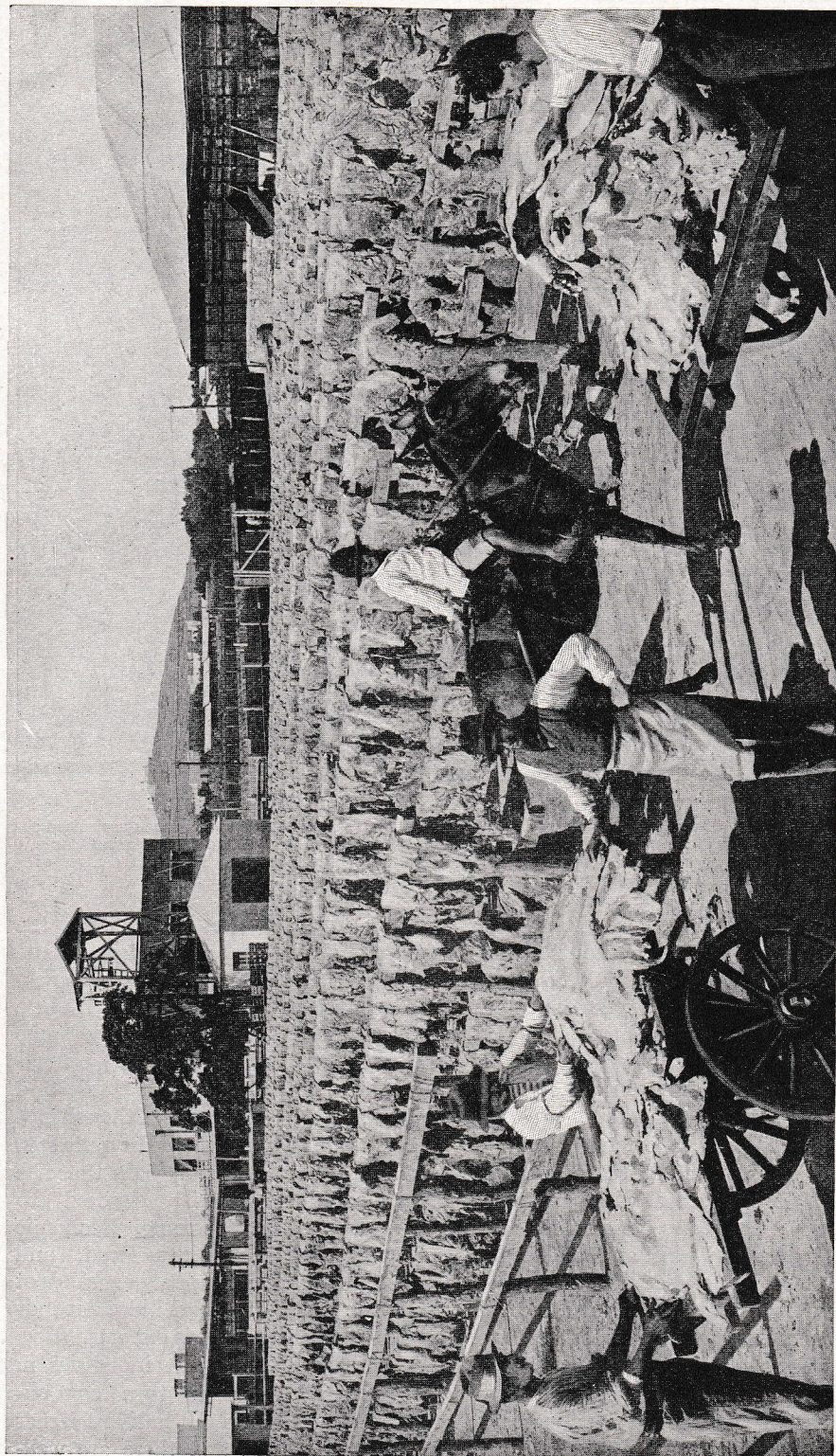
Natural Charms of Uruguay

Practically all the Uruguayan coast north of Maldonado is rendered useless by swamp and lagoon, the celebrated Merim lagoon connecting by the Jaguarão river with Brazil's Lagôa dos Patos. With all the thick part of the pear bathed by the joining waters of the Atlantic and the Rio de la Plata,



ON AN IMMIGRANT RANCHER'S PROPERTY : WASTE LAND CONVERTED INTO A FLOURISHING FARM

The Uruguayan open country is an extension of the treeless grassy plain of the Argentine pampa, though less flat and uniform, and enjoys an excellent climate in spite of summer heat and the rapid fall in temperature caused by the pampero or furious south-west wind. Large numbers of Europeans have been absorbed in the population, which resembles the kindred people of Argentina, although the Uruguayans are of a simpler and less cosmopolitan type, preserving in a greater degree the old-fashioned ways. The soil is productive, with the exception of that on the east coast, and tillage is on the increase



MEAT-PRESERVING PROCESS IN URUGUAY: WORKERS ON THE DRYING-GROUND OF A JERKED BEEF FACTORY

Jerked beef is the name applied to beef dried in the sun. After the fat has been removed the meat is cut into thin strips and hung in the sun for several days; provided it is kept perfectly dry meat can thus be preserved for an indefinite period. These jerked strips, known as charqui, eaten either cooked or raw, are still prepared by old-fashioned methods in Uruguay for home consumption and for export to Brazil and the West Indies. Similarly preserved buffalo or reindeer meat is prepared by the North American Indians and called pemmican, and the South African variety, made from buffalo or antelope, is known as biltong.



TRUSSING FRESH PORK IN A MEAT-PACKING CENTRE

Much of the soil of Uruguay is kept for pastoral purposes, and vast numbers of livestock are raised ; meat, wool, and hides constituting the chief products and exports. There are several large establishments for making meat extract, and preserving and tinning meat. The chief centres of the meat trade for export are at Fray Bentos, Paysandú, and Salto

Uruguay's western edge continues to follow the windings of the Uruguay river, with Paysandú and Salto as useful river ports ; the north-eastern boundary, sloping from the pear's stalk, looks across to the Brazilian Rio Grande do Sul, very much akin in quality.

There, too, are clean grassy uplands, rich and pleasant cattle country, with a bright and temperate all-the-year-round climate. Deep glades with woodland where the pine lingers afford shelter for the wild deer, and pink and golden and purple flowers carpet the meadow. Well-watered, with no mountain ridge showing peaks of over 2,000 feet, but with plenty of good building stone cropping out from scores of grassy stretches, Uruguay is an ideal pastoral country, and happy in being free from any kind of epidemic disease.

It is well for the Banda that the packing-houses have hastened the creation of a high standard in livestock, for despite the facts that Minas province claims mineral wealth, that there is one small goldmine (British owned) operating in the country, and that talc and manganese exist, and coal, although not of the quality required by the railways, has been discovered, it is plain that she must remain primarily devoted to agriculture and stock-raising. Economic methods are being introduced, and forage planted, and upon her sales of wool, meat products, and hides depends 96 per cent. of Uruguay's exports.

There are many infant industries in Montevideo. Factories turn out excellent shoes, made of native leather upon foreign lasts, and there are well-equipped textile mills from which there

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was, at one period of the Great War, an export of woollen cloth to France; soap and candles, glass and pottery, tinware made from imported sheet, in fact a long list of domestic needs are supplied from the mills of Montevideo, and the lot of the worker is not hard since he is forbidden by law to work more than forty-eight hours per week.

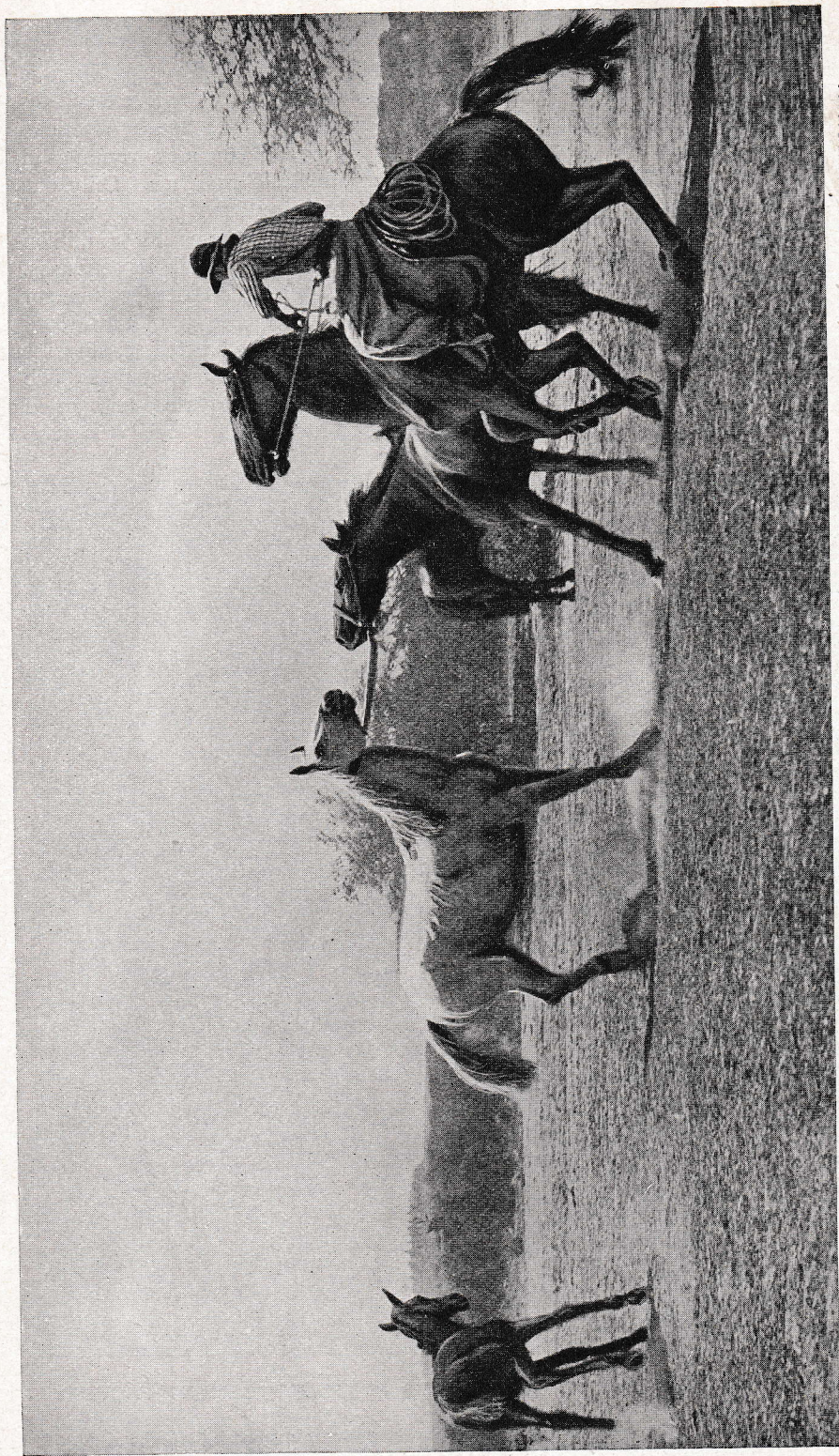
But the true wealth of Uruguay is not in the city but upon the breeze-swept, healthy pampa, perennially green, where in the transparent air the remote horizon appears as an unbroken ring.

Upon this pampa the population is still so sparse that such native creatures as the little rhea, the South American ostrich, may still be seen running in numbers, unafraid and free. Only one and a half million people inhabit Uruguay, and of these half a million live in Montevideo and its suburbs. There is practically no immigration, for there have never been giant mushroom industries suddenly erected, calling for new masses of labour; and as one result there exists no undigested population to trouble the social structure.



IN A DEPARTMENT OF THE MONTEVIDEO PORTLAND CEMENT FACTORY

Portland cement differs very little in composition all the world over. Its uses are many and varied, and its peculiar property of hardening under water renders it invaluable for harbour, dock, and reservoir construction. At every stage of its manufacture the material is carefully tested, and standard specifications to which cement must conform have been imposed in all countries



SOME OF THE THRILLS AND DANGERS OF GAUCHO LIFE: LASSOING HORSES IN THE WILDS OF URUGUAY
 There is little that the gaucho of Uruguay and Argentina does not know about horses. He is essentially a horseman, and so engrained in him is the habit of riding that it is jocularly said that a gaucho will walk a mile to catch a horse in order to ride a quarter of a mile. In some parts of the country wild horses and cattle may be had for the lassoing. Then the skill of these hot-blooded centaur-like men is seen to full advantage, and should they wish to vary their sport there are numerous deer, pumas, and fierce tiger-cats to keep both hand and eye in good training

Photo, Charles Rider Noble

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The steady development of a homogeneous type has proceeded without shock, the older Spanish strain, with a certain Charrua admixture, assimilating without difficulty the European newcomer of the last century. Towards the close of the nineteenth century two children out of every three born in Uruguay had foreign blood on one side of their parentage. Traverse the streets of Montevideo, through the shopping and business districts, and the wide streets of stately residences, and saunter through the outlying regions of modest little houses where, in contrast with the humbler dwellings of many Latin American towns, every window is glazed, and you will agree that there is a homogeneous quality about the Orientales. The type is a distinct one, and one that is noticeably of a high physical standard.

It is common to find a large proportion of pretty women in any Latin American centre; but in Uruguay they are not only lovely, but tall and strong, while their male relatives are notably handsome and athletic.

Life's Amenities in the Capital

The influence of environment is no doubt powerful; the indigenous races were sturdy folk, children of the pampa, and the climate and soil have their ancient effect. There are no sweltering tropics here to enervate white races, and, although Montevideo experiences a hot season—at its most trying in December noons—the force of the sun is tempered by cool breezes from the water. Buenos Aires, placed farther up the river on the opposite (right) bank, is less fortunate, and pays tribute to Montevideo's climate by sending a yearly shoal of visitors, who swell the numbers of Orientales to be seen daily upon the pleasant beach, where crowds of gay, striped bathing tents, airy hotels, and sedulously-kept promenades create a lively scene of which any European watering-place might well be proud.

Montevideo is a bright, well-equipped city; the atmosphere is friendly, the bearing of the passers-by dignified and pleasant. No very poor, shoeless class is to be seen here, there is no marked contrast between poverty and silken extravagance; and to find a trace of that international sore, labour unrest, you must go to the docks, where "Red" trouble-makers have done their best to stir up strife, as they have done at Buenos Aires with more success.

Restrictions Upon Immigration

Before the early years of the present century it was almost if not quite true to say that there had never been a strike in South America; but during the Great War a host of professional agitators, some from Barcelona, some from Russia, and some from the training-school of the I.W.W. in California, found in patriarchal regions below the Rio Grande a wide and untilled field. There were no organizations able to combat their work—the well-managed and level-headed trades union was practically non-existent—and the open invitation maintained by Latin America to induce immigration smoothed the path of the entrant.

To-day Uruguay, in common with the majority of her sister states, has raised hastily contrived barriers. You must have a passport, you must be newly vaccinated, and you must prove that you are neither insane nor a criminal, before you can enter Uruguay nowadays; what is more, if you are over sixty years of age you cannot come in at all unless you have a son in the country who is able to maintain you. The negro and the Hindu are excluded altogether.

Wise Foresight and Prudent Patience

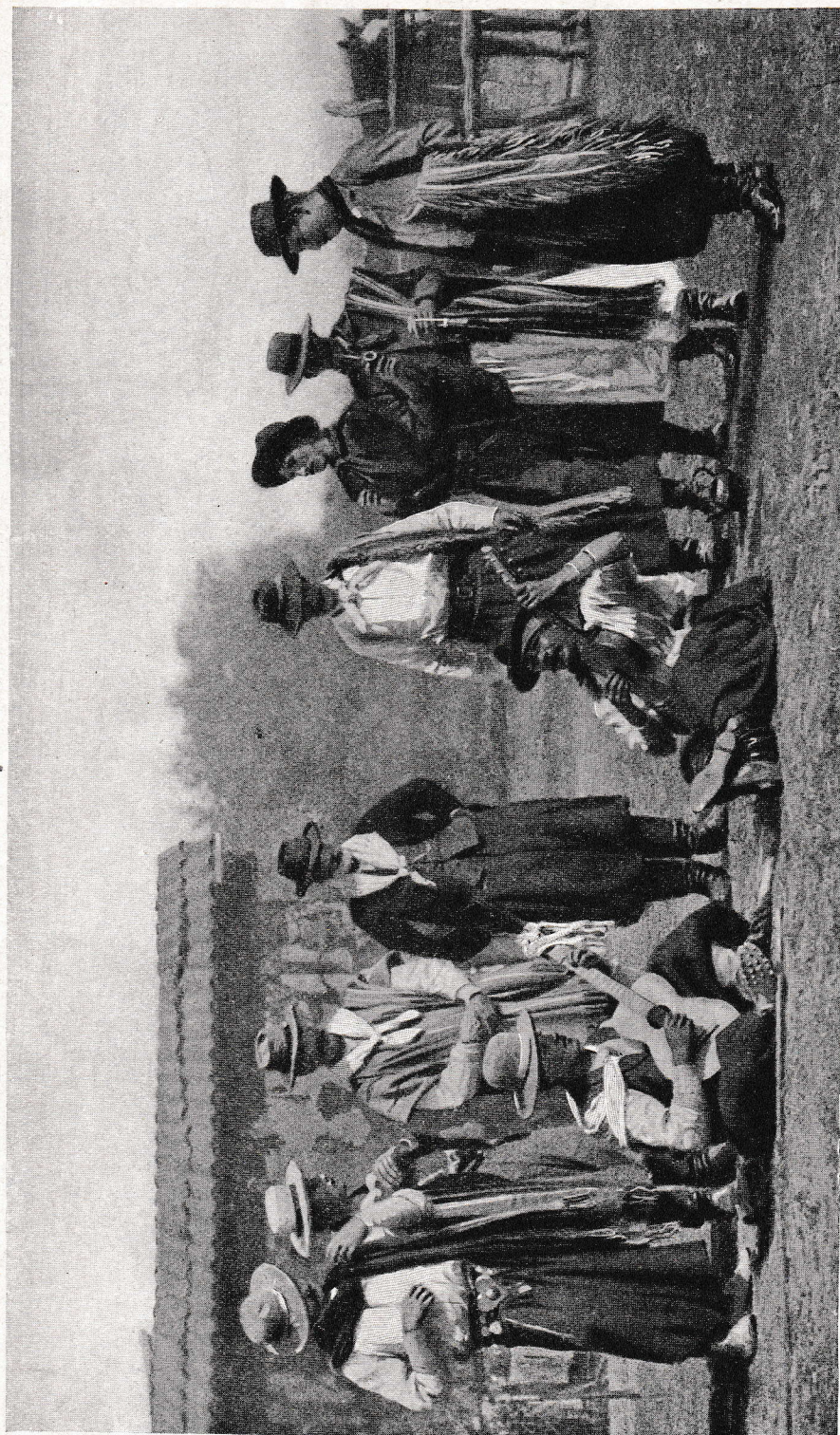
The Uruguayan is, in fact, quite frank in saying that he wants as incomers none but folk like the best that have already formed the population; he wants only hardy white Europeans with enterprise, and trained to serious ideals; and, since this is



GROUP OF HALF-BREED GAUCHOS NEAR FRAY BENTOS, A "CENTRE OF BUTCHERY FOR FAR-OFF CONSUMPTION"

Cattle and sheep raising has long been the chief industry of the Uruguay Republic. The nomad cattlemen, easily distinguishable from the pampas Indians, though their dexterity as horsemen is no less remarkable, are experts in all branches of their calling, and it has been described how a seven-year-old gaucho on horseback successfully lassoed a sheep, cut its throat, and skinned it in most masterly fashion. Fray Bentos, a pleasant port on the Uruguay river, and the centre of a stock-raising district, has a large export trade in meat and animal products, and contains the chief factory for the preparation of meat extract.

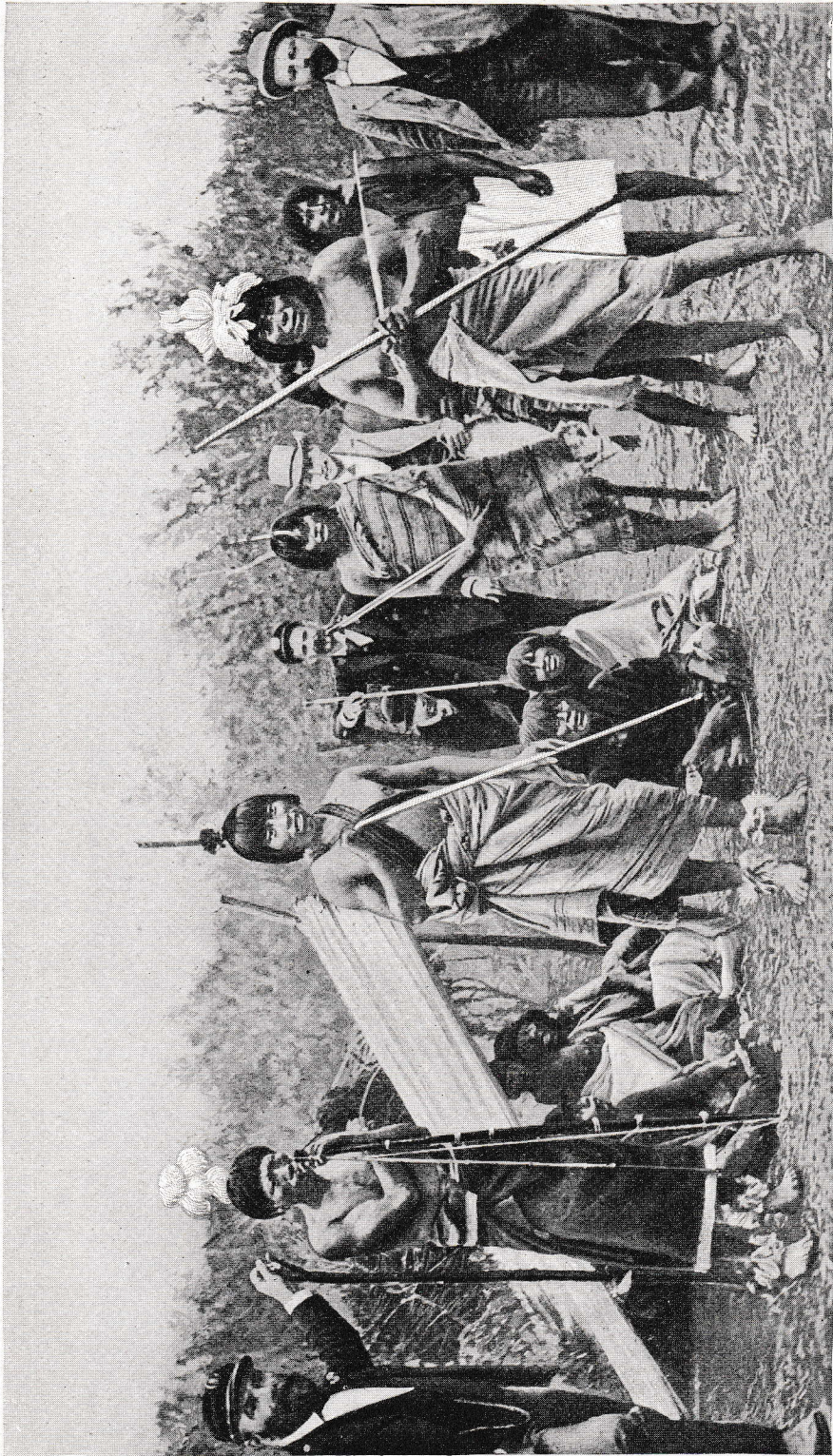
Photo, Charles Rider Noble



FEAST-DAY CELEBRATIONS AMONG THE NOMADIC HYBRID INHABITANTS OF URUGUAY

The gauchos of Uruguay and the Argentine pampas are for the most part half-breeds of Spanish origin on the paternal side and Indian on the maternal. Chiefly cattle-raisers of nomadic habits, they lead a strenuous, out-of-door life, subsisting almost entirely on meat, and enjoying a far-reaching reputation for hardness and courage. Their free mode of existence and extensive practice of butchering cattle are said to have been instrumental in promoting the sanguinary violence of their politics, and they are regarded by many as an unregenerate breed, quick to display their rebellious and unmanageable spirit.

Photo, Charles Rider Noble



REMNANTS OF A PRIMITIVE PEOPLE AMONG THE WHITE POPULATION OF URUGUAY

The Republic of Uruguay is the smallest in size and smallest but one in population of all the independent states of South America. Notwithstanding a slight Indian admixture, and also some negro blood, the Uruguayan population is mainly European in character. There are now only a few Indians remaining, for the state has been cleared of much of its wild blood, and is growing ever more careful in the choice of its citizens, so that "undesirables," such as negroes and some Asiatics, are being excluded. The country is well adapted for white labour, and there has been a considerable immigration from Italy and Spain

Photo, Brown Brothers

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exactly the type of settler eagerly desired by the whole of the three Americas, it is well that the Banda Oriental can afford to wait.

Her biggest groups of labour are clustered far away from the capital, at Fray Bentos, where famous meat-extract and meat-canning establishments employ four or five thousand people, and at Paysandú, where the bulk of the twenty-five thousand population are likewise engaged in the meat business. The network of Uruguayan railways, and the street-car system of the capital, employ thousands of men, but as the operators of the lines are British, and a recent law compels such foreign companies to pension their employees, causes for discontent among the transport workers happily are not momentous.

European Influences in Uruguay

During golden days of prosperity and easy money the worker was prone to listen to the voice of the trained agitator; but depression since 1920 tends to keep the labourer at his job if he is lucky enough to have one, and Uruguay is in social questions of this kind a faithful reflex of the regions from which she draws her most progressive elements. The liquid speech that strikes the ear so agreeably in any main street of Montevideo is Spanish; the handsome church at the corner is that of the Roman form of the Christian faith, for although Uruguay has no state religion and all forms of worship are permitted, the majority of the population follows the Spanish custom; the excellently-cut serges and tweeds of the citizens are modelled upon—if they do not actually come from—London itself.

The street-car system, rolling-stock, rails and all, arrived from Great Britain by steamer; the docks, public services, the very streets, pavements, and the fine houses with their brilliant gardens, are repetitions in a clearer air of the economic and social suavities of

Europe. The horse is here because Europe tamed the horse; cattle and sheep because, four hundred years ago, the Spaniard was accustomed to breed cattle and sheep.

Distinctive Flavour of the Country

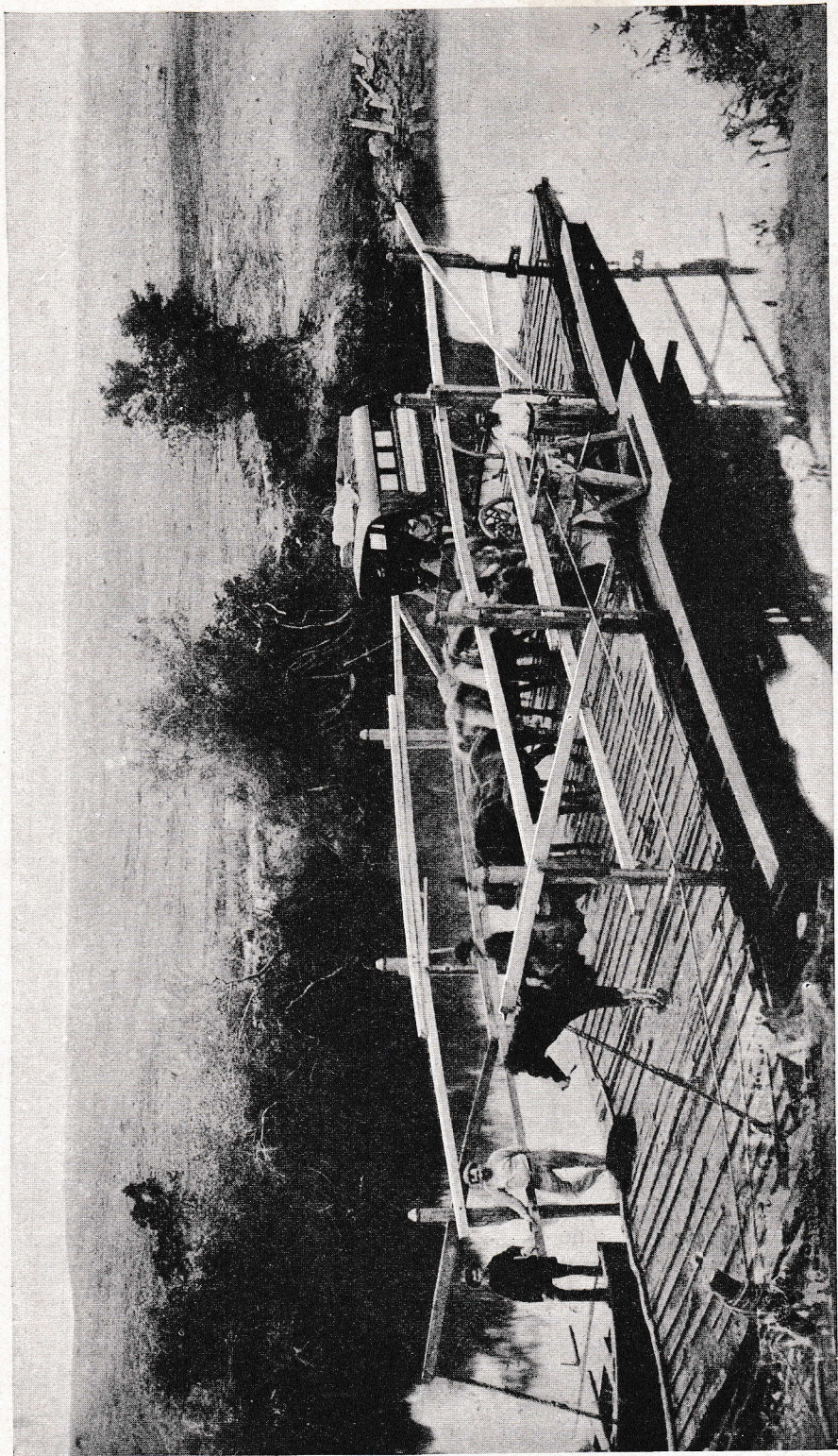
The first importations of livestock, brought ashore by Hernando Arias de Saavedra, in 1586, and turned loose when he failed to conquer the intrepid native and sailed away, multiplied with such extraordinary rapidity that wild herds darkened the pampas and impeded the path of explorers in the next century.

But if the modern life of Uruguay has European bases, it is nevertheless true that the country has a distinct flavour of its own that sets it apart from other countries of South America, equally in debt to Europe.

Throughout the length and breadth of the green Atlantic slope of South America there are no architectural remains of the indigenous folk found by the Spaniards; not a single temple to whatever ancient gods were revered by the native tribes. That is the rule; and Uruguay presents no exception. The Charrua, a semi-nomadic hunting race, built frail huts of skin and branches, wore garments of untanned hide, adorned their dark faces with the lip-plug; smoked tobacco, probably used the bolas to chase the little wild ostrich, deer, and other game, and were fish-eaters; they made good pottery, chipped their stone arrowheads and spearheads beautifully, and buried their dead in the earth, simply piling stones upon the graves. A typical prairie folk, they needed no permanent chiefs save in wartime, each family being ruled by its patriarch.

Montevideo, Focus of National Life

When Hernando Arias turned loose his hundred head of horned cattle, his mares and stallions, he was putting a new and splendid weapon into the hands of the "Indians"; for the Charrua



COUNTRY FERRY CONVEYING A HEAVY CARGO ACROSS ONE OF THE NUMEROUS URUGUAYAN STREAMS

The Uruguayan country is remarkable for its grasslands. These are usually treeless, except for occasional plantations, and they sweep in long undulations or ridges, sloping down to watery hollows which mostly feed the affluents of the Uruguay river. Many of these streams, owing to the frequent torrential thunderstorms, which occur during the hot weather almost every week, swell so rapidly that in a few hours a brooklet can be transformed into a river many yards in width, the waters, however, abating as rapidly as they increase. There is little internal navigable water, and bridges are as rare as well-kept roads



SUMMER MORNING ON A BATHING BEACH OF MONTEVIDEO

Despite a high summer temperature Montevideo, situated partly on a promontory, is constantly refreshed by wholesome sea-breezes, and Pocitos and Ramirez, its seaside suburbs, are very popular resorts for visitors from far and near. Uruguay has a well-trained, armed police force; nevertheless, in the more remote districts, the traveller still finds it advisable to carry weapons

Photo, Publishers' Photo Service

speedily learned to ride the horse, and with that the whole of their tribal life was transformed. They ranged afield, beat their enemies, and were ready to wage war on more equal terms with the next shipload of Spaniards.

Against the Portuguese to the north, in Brazil, the Charrua, mounted, organized, and audacious, waged continuous and ferocious war; between 1725 and 1800 they are said to have killed four thousand Portuguese, chiefly Paulistas of the famous *bandeiras*, which began as slave-hunting expeditions against the native tribes and

developed into a series of gold and diamond rushes.

Small and compact, the country is fortunate in possessing a capital that not only controls the single great mass of the population, but is the one chief channel through which flows the commerce of the country. Montevideo is the only first-class port, looking out to the broad River Plata (76 miles wide at this point); it is the head and front of all trading and financial movements; the seat of government, the fashionable watering-place for *Porteños* (people of Buenos Aires) as well as *Orientales*



FIESTA AMONG THE GAUCHOS: HIGH DAY ON THE GRASSY PLAINS OF URUGUAY

The gala days of the gauchos, marked by riotous celebrations, display nevertheless a certain deference to the Muse; tradition demanding that those of their number endowed with poetic power shall declaim at length in extravagant rhythmical language their deeds of daring. Here, in picturesque attitude and attire, the poet laureate of the moment is reciting with bombastic vigour his improvised poem, in which intrepid horsemen with lasso and bolas defy the world at large. The bolas, seen hanging from the belts of the men to the left, is a missile weapon, consisting of balls fastened to cords, and used in hunting cattle and large game

Photo, A. Carbone

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themselves, and from it, like a fan, radiate all the railway lines of Uruguay.

This concentration has helped to make possible the social experiments placing Uruguay in the van of South American nations. For example, this is the only Latin American country where women have the right to vote. Laws relating to marriage and divorce are also unusually liberal as regards the woman's position. Capital punishment was abolished in 1907, but it must be noted that the duel still exists.

There is no lack of candidates for political office or for any form of governmental service, for the commercial world is only gradually gaining recruits from the old landed class; but nowadays you will meet serious young Orientales in London and New York, studying at architectural, commercial, and engineering schools, with a view to returning to Montevideo to take up posts with established firms, or to set up for themselves.

Daily Life in the Bright Capital

The city has definite customs as regards the working hours of the day. One rises early, taking a cup of magnificent (dripped) coffee, toasted rolls, and perhaps a couple of eggs, in one's room before having a bath. The trams are busy, the pavements full of well-dressed, spruce citizens, hurrying to offices. But at noon the scene changes as if a magician had waved a wand.

All the fine shops, displaying pretty shoes, lovely dresses and jewels and quantities of imported delicacies, close their shutters and doors; the banks and business houses follow suit, and for two or even three hours the sun-flooded streets are practically empty while the Oriental is taking his mid-day siesta after a long and elaborate lunch. During the afternoon all the shutters are opened again, but the effect of the siesta is to postpone the rush of business and shopping until six or seven o'clock.

The evening meal is postponed likewise, and you may be invited to a Montevideo

house to dinner at nine, and will be lucky if you sit down to the table before ten o'clock. When it does come, the food is delicious; it is likely to include big prawns from the bay, pickled partridges from your host's estate, huge home-grown peaches, and South American wine. The mineral water comes, too, from a Uruguayan spring. Table talk will be lively, for while every Uruguayan countryman is an extemporary poet, a clever strummer upon the guitar, this gift is translated in the capital into ready conversational wit, and, in the politician, into an astonishing talent for magniloquent oratory.

Honour Paid to Literature

I believe that it is still true in South America that poets have more power than the politicians; this tendency to exalt the author of the brilliant written word was never more clearly exemplified than at the funeral of the Uruguayan writer, Enrique Rodó. Rodó died in Italy, and his body was brought back to Montevideo with regal honours. No less than kingly, too, were the funeral ceremonies.

Dense crowds crammed the streets from wall to wall, and not only did the President and the Ministers and all the eminent Orientales walk bareheaded behind Rodó's coffin, but all foreign diplomats added their homage. Eloquent speeches flowed from every gifted Uruguayan tongue, and all the newspapers—and Uruguay has a considerable press—were filled with portraits of the dead literato and excerpts from his work.

Two Aspects of the Banda Oriental

Nothing could have brought home more forcibly the fact that there are two main aspects of the Banda Oriental. There is the new, lively, intellectual life of the capital, and there is, its permanent strength and shield, the widespread, fertile, sun- and dew-drenched prairie, creator of the basic Uruguayan type to-day as it was four hundred years ago.



SURVIVORS OF THE OLD CHARRUA RACE OF SOUTH AMERICAN INDIANS
 Charrua strains still exist in Uruguay and South Brazil. Of Guaycuru stock, these Indians formerly occupied Entre Rios, whence they raided Uruguay. They have abandoned bows and arrows for firearms and the horse, but still wear their typical head-band and raw-hide shoes. The shawl draped round the man's waist, from which is suspended the bolas, a hunting weapon, is woven on native looms

Photo, A. Carbone

Uruguay

II. The Story of "La Banda Oriental"

By W. H. Koebel

Author of "Uruguay," "The South Americans," etc.

WHEN the intrepid explorer-adventurer, Juan Diaz de Solis, effected his first landing (in 1512) upon Uruguayan soil, he found it inhabited, and himself bitterly opposed, by the warlike tribe of Charrua Indians, who slew him and a number of his men. In 1527, Cabot's lieutenant Ramon was worsted by the Charrua, who in 1603 cut to pieces a little army led by Saavedra. So strenuous was the resistance offered by the Indians that it was not until the middle of the seventeenth century that the Spaniards began to make headway in Uruguay.

For some time thereafter Spaniards and Portuguese strove for the mastery, until in 1726 the Viceroy Zavala, of Buenos Aires, founded and established his headquarters at Montevideo. In 1750 the province was declared independent of Buenos Aires, and in 1777 Portuguese rivalry was crushed by the destruction of their settlement of Colombia, and by the treaty of Ildefonso (October 1, 1777).

Great Britain having been at war with the Spanish for some time, a British force under General Auchmuty attacked Montevideo in 1806-7, the plan being for a general onslaught upon Spain's possessions in South America. The British naval force cooperating with Auchmuty was commanded by Admiral Sir C. Stirling. The troops were landed in the neighbourhood of Montevideo on January 18, 1807. Six thousand Spanish troops defended the place, which was, however, brilliantly carried by assault on February 2, and the British remained in possession until May, when General Whitelocke superseded Auchmuty. Whitelocke, now in command of 12,000 troops, squandered them in the attempt to take Buenos Aires. By a treaty of July 7, 1807, the remnant of Whitelocke's force was transported back to Montevideo, which it evacuated a few weeks later.

Through Revolt to Independence

Argentina's declaration of independence from Spanish rule (May 23, 1810) involved Uruguay's incorporation in the "United Provinces of Rio de la Plata." The Spaniards still retained Montevideo, though defeated by José de Artigas in 1811; but the city fell in 1814, when General Alvear assailed it from the landward side,

while the Irish adventurer, Admiral Brown, destroyed the Spanish fleet.

Brazil attacked Uruguay two years later, and in 1821 succeeded in annexing it as the "Provincia Cisplatina." But in 1825 thirty-three Uruguayan exiles from Buenos Aires, led by Lavajella, inaugurated a successful revolt. While Brown made short work of the Brazilian fleet, her army was routed at Ituzaingo, and Brazil and Argentina recognized Uruguayan independence in a treaty signed at Montevideo (August 27, 1828). José Rondeau was appointed Governor and a constitution promulgated. General Rivera was chosen President, and he exterminated the Charrua Indians in 1832. But civil war prevailed from 1835. Manuel Oribe rebelled, and invoked the cooperation of Juan Manuel Rosas, the Dictator of Buenos Aires.

Revolution and Counter-Revolution

In 1843, Rosas and Oribe proclaimed a rigid closure of the Uruguay and Paraná rivers to all foreigners. This high-handed procedure proved entirely unacceptable to Great Britain and France, who determined to reopen the waterway by force. The British Admiral Inglefield was placed in command of a Franco-British squadron. Rosas' inadequate naval forces were led by Admiral Brown, whose squadron was destroyed by the allies (August, 1845), and the San Martin added to the French navy.

Admiral Inglefield's fleet then ascended to Uruguay, to find that at Obligado the Dictator had blocked the fairway by means of a huge boom, supported by formidable batteries on the banks. The allies attacked and conquered these defences, November 20, 1845. Boats' crews succeeded in destroying the boom, landing-parties destroyed the forts, and the Uruguayan ship *Republicano* was blown up.

Nevertheless, the blockade of Montevideo endured from 1843 to 1852, when the northern boundary of Uruguay was settled by treaty with Brazil. The struggle between the two factions of the "Blancos" (Whites), of whom Oribe was the leader, and the "Colorados" (Reds) went on for years. From 1864 to 1870 President Flores, who then ruled Uruguay, was engaged, in alliance with Brazil and

URUGUAY & ITS STORY

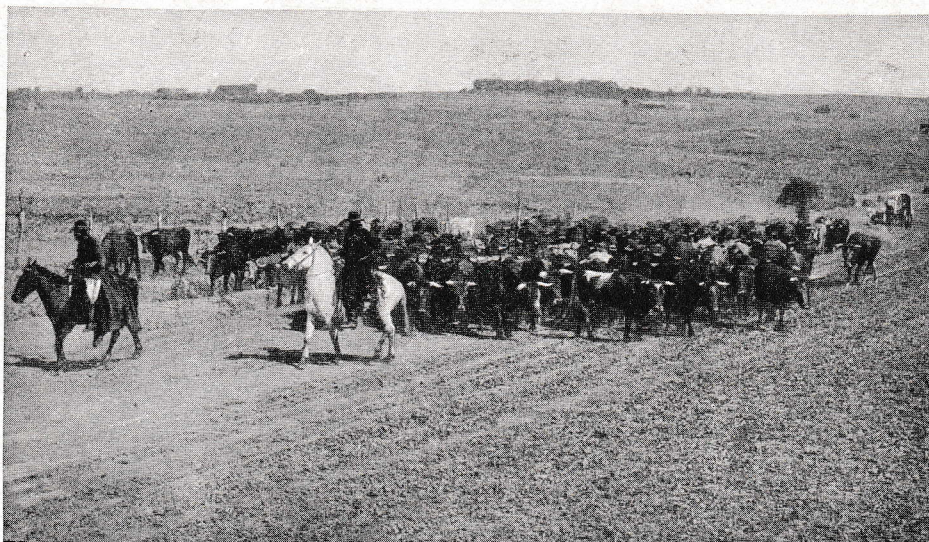
Argentina, in a war of extermination against Lopez, the Dictator of Paraguay.

All this time the Republic was on the verge of insolvency. President Ellauri was overthrown in 1875 by General Latorre. The latter proclaimed Dr. Varela as Dictator, but was tempted to nominate himself President in 1876. Four years later Latorre was compelled to resign, and for two years (1880-82) Dr. Vidal officiated as head of the state. The Colorado General Santos now assumed power, but proved so tyrannical in his methods that an army was organized for his overthrow. This force was defeated on the banks of the Rio Negro. But eventually his own partisans un-

seated Santos. His immediate successor was another soldier, General Tages. In 1890 Tages retired in favour of the civilian Herrera y Obes, who proved utterly unscrupulous, suspended the public debt, and staffed all the public departments with adherents of his own. Idiarte Borda became President (1894) on the nomination of the Colorado party, but turned out almost as unscrupulous as his predecessor. Aparicio Saraiva, a Blanco, placed himself at the head of a movement for his overthrow in 1896-97, and on August 25, 1897, President Borda was assassinated at Montevideo by one Arrendo. After the delay of a couple



THE REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY



CATTLE ON THE WAY TO THE STOCKYARDS AT MONTEVIDEO

Apart from the enormous meat-preserving industries, the exportation of live animals has greatly increased the foreign trade of Uruguay in recent years, and many by-products of the meat business, such as hides, tallow, and wool, are numbered among the exports. Even the horses are turned to account after death; the hoofs yield glue, the bones bone-ash, and the skins are sent abroad.

of years in bringing him to trial, the murderer was sentenced to two years' imprisonment on the ground that it was a political crime.

Juan Cuestas, as President of the Senate, then assumed presidential powers. He adopted a policy of conciliation, including an amnesty for all engaged in the late revolt, and even a monetary allowance to cover the insurgents' "expenses." He also took measures for placing the distracted country upon an improved commercial and financial basis.

In February, 1898, however, Cuestas proclaimed himself dictator and dissolved the Chambers. He resigned office in the following year, to be re-elected president on March 1, 1899. A murder-plot against him failed in 1903, when a fresh civil war was inaugurated. It continued for some

months, until the mortal wounding of the revolutionary leader, Saraiva, after which peace was proclaimed.

Dr. Claudio Williman's term of office (1907-11) was comparatively uneventful. On his resignation, the Colorado party brought about the election of José Battle, and the rival factions had resort to arms once more. It was understood that President Battle favoured a Constitution for Uruguay on lines approximating those on which that of the federal Republic of Switzerland is based.

He was still in office when, in August, 1914, the Great War commenced. President Battle's attitude was consistently anti-German from the outset, and his policy was confirmed by his successor, Dr. Feliciano Viera, 1915. In 1919, Dr. Baltasar Brum was elected president.

URUGUAY: FACTS AND FIGURES

The Country

A continuation of the great grass-covered, treeless plain of the Argentine pampa occupies all Uruguayan territory. The surface is undulating and well watered. Climate is subject to sudden drops in temperature owing to cold and violent wind from the south-west, but is otherwise well suited to Europeans. Main rivers are the Uruguay and its tributaries, the Negro and Daiman, but save on the first navigation is little developed. Total area about 72,150 square miles; estimated population 1,495,000.

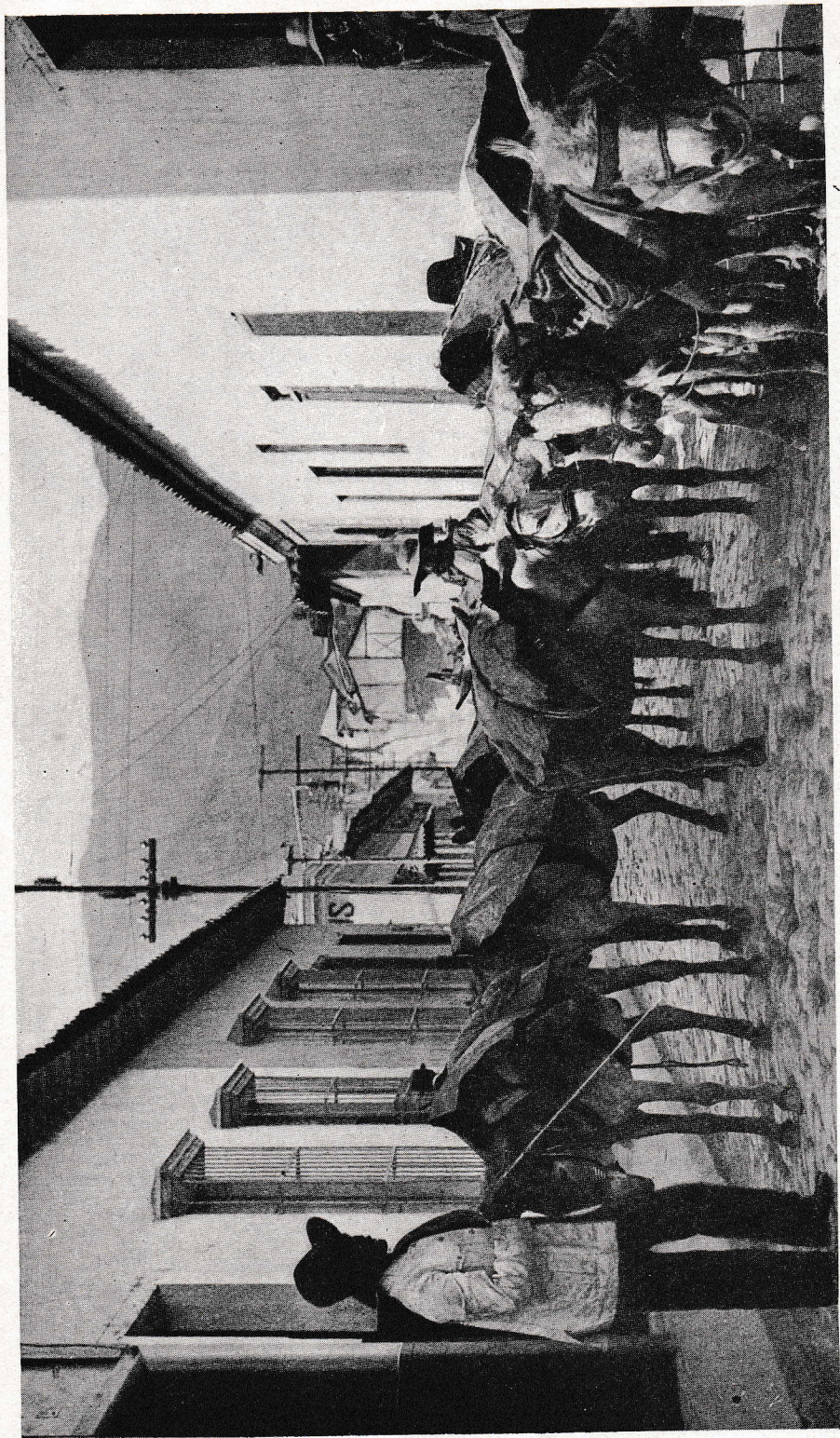
Government and Constitution

Legislative authority in hands of a Senate and Chamber of Representatives, which together form the Parliament and meet annually. Senators, one for each department and elected for six years, are chosen by the members of an Electoral College who are themselves elected by popular vote. Members of the Chamber are elected for three

years by male suffrage, ability to read and write being an essential of the right to the franchise. During intervals in the sessions a committee of five representatives and two senators form the executive. Ordinarily, executive power is exercised by the President, elected for four years by popular vote, and a National Administrative Council of nine members.

Commerce and Industries

Stock-raising carried on over 60 per cent. of the total area. Wheat, corn, and oats are produced, while grapes, tobacco, and olives are cultivated. Gold is worked, and deposits of lignite coal, magnesium, silver, and copper have been found. In 1922 imports reached a value of £8,169,645 and exports £14,298,831. Foodstuffs, hardware, and fuel are important imports, while meat and extracts, wool, hides, live animals, and agricultural products are the chief exports. Standard coin, the peso; nominal value 4·70 pesos = £1.



PACK-DONKEYS LADEN WITH COUNTRY MERCHANDISE PASSING THROUGH A STREET OF CARACAS

Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, lies in a beautiful mountain-girt valley watered by the river Guaire and nearly 3,000 feet above sea-level. Sugar and coffee plantations surround the city which, owing to its altitude, enjoys a moderate temperature, and claims to be the most perfectly and salubriously situated of all the South American capitals. The narrow streets are paved with cobbles in the outer part of the city, in the centre with cement, and lined by one-storied houses which usually turn their blind side to the street, the barred windows and stuccoed walls suggesting little of the comfortable and even luxurious quarters behind them